

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims:-

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A downhill ski characterised by comprising a thrust support ~~consisting of~~ comprising a superstructure having a base member, connected to ~~the~~ a central region of the ski, and a front prolongation ~~(5,11)~~, the end of which exerts elastically a concentrated downward thrust action on a point ~~(6)~~ in that portion of the ski between the front jaw (P) of the binding and the section ~~(4)~~ where the tip curvature commences, the connection of the end of the said front prolongation ~~(5,11)~~ to said ski being of the type acting as a bilateral support and a hinge of transverse-horizontal axis, able to inhibit mutual movements in a vertical direction, but such as to enable mutual rotation about said transverse-horizontal direction and mutual sliding in a longitudinal direction.

2. (Currently Amended) A The ski as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the thrust support acts on a point substantially at the centre of that portion between the front jaw (P) of the binding and the section ~~(4)~~ where the tip curvature commences.

3. (Currently Amended) A The ski as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the thrust support acts on a point situated in the rear half of that portion between the front jaw (P) of the binding and the section ~~(4)~~ where the tip curvature commences.

4. (Currently Amended) A The ski as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the base member is split into two half-members ~~(8,9)~~, namely a rear one ~~(9)~~ for ~~merely~~ raising the heel of the binding, and a front ~~one~~ ~~(8)~~ half-member below the front part of the boot.

5. (Currently Amended) A The ski as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that said~~ wherein the front prolongation ~~(5)~~ and at least the front portion ~~(8)~~ of said base member form a monolithic entity.

6. (Currently Amended) A The ski as claimed in ~~claims 4 and 5,~~ ~~characterised in that said~~ claim 4, wherein the front half-member ~~(8)~~ is hinge-connected to said central region ~~(1)~~ at a point ~~(17)~~ to the rear of the front jaw (P).

7. (Currently Amended) A The ski as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that said~~ wherein the connection ~~(6)~~ consists of a hinge slotted in a horizontal plane.

8. (Currently Amended) A The ski as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterised in that said~~ wherein the front prolongation ~~(11)~~ is independent, is connected at its rear to the front portion of said base member by a hinge ~~(12)~~ and is provided with a retro-prolongation ~~(13)~~ which extends from said hinge and acts as a reacting element on the base member by means of a counteracting element ~~(14)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A The ski as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterised in that such~~ wherein the front prolongation ~~(11)~~ is independent, is connected at its rear to the front portion of said base member by a hinge ~~(12)~~ and is provided with a retro-prolongation ~~(13)~~ which extends from said hinge and acts as a reacting element on the ski by means of a counteracting element ~~(16)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A The ski as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterised in that such~~ wherein the front prolongation ~~(11)~~ is independent, is connected at its rear to the front portion of said base member by a hinge ~~(12)~~ and is provided with a retro-prolongation ~~(13)~~ which extends from said hinge and acts as a

reacting element on the base member by means of a first counteracting element ~~(14)~~ and on the ski by means of a second counteracting element ~~(16)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A The ski as claimed in ~~one or more of claims from 8 to 10 characterised in that at least one~~ claim 8, wherein the counteracting element ~~(14,16)~~ is of adjustable feed.

12. (Currently Amended) A The ski as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterised in that to at least one reaction element~~ wherein a substantially elastic insert ~~(15)~~ is associated with the counteracting element.

13. (Currently Amended) A The ski as claimed in claim 12 ~~characterised in that~~ , wherein the insert ~~(15)~~ is formed of high-resistance rubber.

14. (New) The ski as claimed in claim 9, wherein the counteracting element is of adjustable feed.

15. (New) The ski as claimed in claim 14, wherein a substantially elastic insert is associated with the counteracting element.

16. (New) The ski as claimed in claim 10, wherein the counteracting element is of adjustable feed.

17. (New) The ski as claimed in claim 16, wherein a substantially elastic insert is associated with the counteracting element.